

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A flexible hinge (40) with opposite ends (40a, 40b) coupled respectively to each of two members (10, 30) and defining a longitudinal direction extending along the flexible hinge between the opposite ends, the flexible hinge (40) being bendable about an axis substantially normal to the longitudinal direction of the flexible hinge for bringing the opposite ends (40a, 40b) to substantially face each other, the flexible hinge (40) being formed with ~~a~~ an elongated weakened portion (41) for making the flexible hinge (40) easier to bend, the weakened portion (41) being in a set region (R) of the flexible hinge (40), the set region (R) having outer ends (Pa, Pb) spaced in towards a middle part of the flexible hinge (40) from the opposite ends (40a, 40b) by a specified distance (L; L') the weakened portion having a length extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the flexible hinge and a width extending substantially normal to the length, the length being greater than the width.

2. (currently amended) The flexible hinge of claim 1, wherein the specified distance (L; L') by which the outer ends (Pa, Pb) of the set region (R) are spaced from the opposite ends (40a, 40b) of the flexible hinge (40) is in a range of about 10% to about 30% of a complete longitudinal extension (LE) of the flexible hinge (40).

3. (currently amended) The flexible hinge of claim 2, wherein the weakened portion (41) comprises a slit (41) penetrating the flexible hinge (40).

4. (currently amended) The flexible hinge of claim 1, wherein the weakened portion (41) is substantially symmetrical with respect to ~~a~~ the longitudinal

direction (~~LD~~) and a transverse direction (TD) substantially normal to the longitudinal direction of the flexible hinge (40).

5. (currently amended) The flexible hinge of claim 1, wherein widened portions (~~40W~~) ~~are provided~~ are provided such that a width of the flexible hinge (40) along a transverse direction (~~TD~~) is widened gradually towards the opposite ends (~~40a, 40b~~).

6. (currently amended) The flexible hinge of claim 5, wherein the widened portions (~~WD~~) are provided completely within the specified distance (~~L; L'~~).

7. (currently amended) The flexible hinge of claim 1, wherein the flexible hinge (~~40~~) has a substantially constant thickness (~~t~~) at all locations spaced from the weakened portion (41).

8. (currently amended) A flexible hinge (~~40~~) with opposite ends (~~40a, 40b~~) unitarily coupled respectively to each of two members (~~10, 30~~) and defining a longitudinal direction extending between the opposite ends, the flexible hinge further defining a transverse direction normal to the longitudinal direction and a thickness direction normal to the longitudinal direction and the transverse direction, the flexible hinge (40) being bendable about an axis substantially parallel to the transverse direction for bringing the opposite ends (40a, 40b) to substantially face each other, the flexible hinge (40) being formed with a slit (41) extending entirely through the flexible hinge in the thickness direction and being symmetrically disposed in the flexible hinge (40) relative to both the longitudinal direction and the transverse direction along a set region (R), the set region (R) having outer ends (Pa, Pb) spaced in towards a middle part of the flexible hinge (40) from the opposite ends (40a, 40b) by specified distances (L; L') in

a range of ~~about 10% to about 30%~~ of a complete longitudinal extension (~~LE~~) between the opposite ends (~~40a, 40b~~) of the flexible hinge (~~40~~), the flexible hinge (~~40~~) having a width measured parallel to the transverse direction that gradually increases at locations between the outer ends (~~Pa, Pb~~) of the set region (~~R~~) and the opposite ends (~~40a, 40b~~).

9. (currently amended) A wire cover (~~1~~), comprising:

a main body (~~10~~);

a lid (~~30~~) configured to close the main body (~~10~~) for covering at least one wire (~~W~~) between the main body (~~10~~) and the lid (~~30~~); and

a flexible hinge (~~40~~) with a first end (~~40a~~) coupled to the main body (~~10~~) and an opposite second end (~~40b~~) coupled to the lid (~~30~~) so that the flexible hinge defines a longitudinal direction extending between the first and second ends, the flexible hinge (~~40~~) having a weakened portion (~~41~~) for making the flexible hinge (~~40~~) easier to bend, the weakened portion (~~41~~) being formed in a set region (~~R~~) with outer ends (~~Pa, Pb~~) at positions spaced in towards a middle part of the flexible hinge (~~40~~) from the opposite ends (~~40a, 40b~~) by a specified distance (~~L; L'~~), the weakened portion having a length dimension extending parallel to the longitudinal direction of the hinge and a width dimension extending substantially normal to the length dimension, the length dimension being greater than the width dimension.

10. (currently amended) The wire cover of claim 9, wherein at least one engaging portion (~~13; 14; 31; 32~~) is provided in at least one of the main body (~~10~~) and the lid (~~30~~) for engaging a portion (~~51; 52~~) of a corrugate tube (~~50~~).

11. (currently amended) The wire cover of claim 9, wherein the specified distance (~~L; L'~~) by which the outer ends (~~Pa, Pb~~) of the set region (~~R~~) are

spaced from the opposite ends (40a, 40b) of the flexible hinge (40) is in a range of about 10% to about 30% of a complete longitudinal extension (LE) of the flexible hinge (40) along the longitudinal direction.

12. (currently amended) The wire cover of claim 11, wherein the flexible hinge has thickness direction extending substantially transverse to the length and width dimensions of the weakened portion and wherein the weakened portion (41) comprises a slit (41) penetrating the flexible hinge (40) in the thickness direction.

13. (currently amended) The wire cover of claim 9, wherein the weakened portion (41) is substantially symmetrical with respect to a the longitudinal direction (LD) and a transverse direction (TD) substantially normal to the longitudinal direction of the flexible hinge (40).

14. (currently amended) The wire cover of claim ~~9~~ 13, wherein widened portions (40W) ~~are provided~~ are provided such that a width of the flexible hinge (40) along a the transverse direction (TD) is widened gradually towards the opposite ends (40a, 40b).

15. (currently amended) The wire cover of claim 14, wherein the widened portions (WD) are provided completely within the specified distance (L; L').